



Advocates for Children CASA Volunteer Gift Guide

We recognize that our volunteers are generous and dedicated and we appreciate your desire to make children and youth's birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions memorable!

We value the health, safety, and preservation of positive relationships in our cases. With that in mind, we have created this Volunteer Gift Guide to serve as a resource when selecting gifts for your CASA, Legacy, or tutoring youth.

When selecting, purchasing, or giving a gift to children or youth, please consider the following:

- **Have you spoken to the child or youth's placement about the gift and if it is allowed?**
 - Placements or families may have rules about certain items and whether they are allowed in the home. We want to respect and support those rules.
 - Some placements or families may not be able to afford gifts. In some instances, despite the generous gesture, a gift from a volunteer may create tension or conflict between the placement and child/youth or volunteer. Please make sure that the parent or placement is consulted to prevent any hurt feelings.
 - In placements or homes where there are multiple children, we do not want to create conflict between children or youth. Please check and see if there are ways to acknowledge other children or youth in the home to minimize conflict.
- **Have you taken into consideration health or safety concerns?**
 - Have you spoken to the professional team, placement, or family about whether the child or youth has food or other allergies? Make sure you cover this before buying food or hygiene products.
 - Before giving a gift, talk to the professionals, placement, or family about safety concerns. For example, we need to know if there are self-harm concerns so that the gift can be monitored for any sharp objects.
 - See the next page for items to be mindful of when giving gifts.
- **Have you explored community resources or sustainable alternatives to giving a gift?**
 - We want special occasions to be memorable for our children and youth; however, we also are committed to sustainability. Talk to your Coordinator before purchasing a gift and see if we already have items in the Warm and Fuzzy closet or a gift card you can use.
 - You can also see if there are community partners that you can introduce to the placement or family such as food and clothing banks.

Gifts to Monitor

Please review the list of gifts below and take health, safety, and positive relationships into account when selecting a gift.

Please note that we are not saying these gifts are not allowed; it is important that further consideration or consultation is given prior to offering these items.

Please talk to your Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about a gift you would like to give!

- Art sets that include pencil sharpeners
- Breakable items that could produce sharp edges (e.g., ceramic, glass or plastic objects)
- Food items
- Gift cards
- Hygiene products, including razor blades
- Large and/or expensive gifts (e.g., video game consuls, computers, expensive clothing)
- Manicure sets with nail files, emery boards, or nail clippers
- Over-the-counter medications (e.g., Tylenol, Aleve, Advil, Motrin, etc.)
- School supplies that include scissors or pencil sharpeners
- Toys with batteries (you can keep the batteries separate and give them to the responsible adult to use at their discretion)